Carol Kramer and I first met in New Haven in 1985 when I was taking my first archaeology and anthropology classes and she was teaching for a semester at Yale. The Yale faculty made it clear to all students that this woman was a big name and her class was not to be missed. I sat in on the first week. Deemed “shopping week” at Yale, it was a chance to explore classes before final registration. I was in my earliest stages of study and struggling mightily to come to grips with issues of chronology. Ethnoarchaeology seemed too arcane a field for me to even consider. I registered instead for a course in world prehistory and a field school.

I never thought that she would remember me when, two years later, we met again in Tucson. “Yes,” she said, “I remember you, you’re the one who walked out of my class in New Haven.” Horrified that she did in fact remember, I said, “Well, Dr. Kramer, I’ve come to redeem myself.”

She smiled that smile that spread from her up-curved lips to the corners of her eyes. “Call me Carol,” she said.

I took several courses with her at the U of A, and I served as her teaching assistant. She served on my prelim committee and supervised my dissertation. The year Louise Senior and I finally graduated, she threw parties for us, and came to watch us “do the walk,” as she phrased it. She joined us and our families afterward for a celebratory lunch.

I appreciated her support while I was a student. I was just beginning to enjoy her advice as a colleague and her friendship when she died too soon last December. As I attempted to come to grips with my personal loss at her death, I realized for the first time the enormous circle of connection Carol had created, bringing together students, colleagues, and friends from Tucson.
to New York and beyond. Her intellectual attainments are but part of her legacy. In the way that she linked ethnography and archaeology in the new field of ethnoarchaeology, she linked students and colleagues together into a worldwide network of "friends of Carol." For me, the knowledge that I can call any of a huge group of people and say "I was Carol's student" and be accepted into the fold is her greatest legacy.

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